2009 NATIONAL LEARNING FOR LIFE
CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Opening General Session Speaker
Bill Milliken, Founder and Vice Chairman
Communities In Schools, Inc.

Bill Milliken, founder and vice chairman of Communities In Schools, Inc., is one of the nation's foremost pioneers in the movement to give young people the help they need to graduate from high school and go on to rewarding lives.

The year 2000 marked the 40th anniversary of Milliken's commitment to children, and saw him receive two major national awards. The Edward A. Smith Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership honors one executive each year who exemplifies "extraordinary leadership" over a lifetime of service. The "Champion for Children" award from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) honors a nationally known non-educator whose contributions have significantly and positively influenced the lives of children.

Communities In Schools is the nation's leading community-based organization helping kids stay in school and prepare for life. Currently, CIS directly serves more than 1.4 million students and their families each year in more than 3,400 schools in 27 states and the District of Columbia. Its grassroots, personalized approach embodies Milliken's long-held philosophy, "Programs don't change children - relationships do."

Milliken's activism began in 1960 when he joined Young Life, an ecumenical youth organization. He helped initiate "street academies" for young people who had dropped out of school and wanted a chance to resume their education, as well as live-in programs for substance abusers and youth in need of shelter and support. Milliken's experiences led him to search for a comprehensive approach to helping young people. This search culminated in the 1970s with the development of a model program that repositioned existing community resources into schools - the Communities In Schools network, which Milliken led as president until May 2004.

Milliken has served three U.S. presidents. During the Carter Administration, he was the White House Advisor on Youth Issues. In 1989, Milliken advised President Bush for the Education Summit with the nation's governors. Most recently, Milliken was involved in the planning of The Presidents' Summit for America's Future. In 1994, Milliken received the National Caring Award as one of the "10 most caring people in America." In 1992, he received the Temple Award for Creative Altruism, given by the Institute of Noetic Sciences, which honors individuals "whose lives and work demonstrate the transformative power of caring coupled with imagination and enterprise."


Everyone attending the conference will receive a free copy of Bill Milliken's book, “The Last Dropout” Stop the Epidemic!
Learning for Life National Conference
March 10 – 12, 2009
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
San Diego, California

Opening Dinner Speaker

Bob Mazzuca
Chief Scout Executive

Opening Night Entertainment

Ronn Lucas

Tuesday, General Session

Bill Milliken
Author
“The Last Dropout: Stop the Epidemic”

Wednesday, General Session

Marshall Howard
Author
“Let’s Have Lunch

Wednesday, Luncheon

Mark Hyatt
President
The Classic Academy

CONFERENCE FEE: $425.00
HOTEL COST: $150.00 a night
GOLF TOURNAMENT: $130.00 per person

Closing, Luncheon

Chief Katherine Perez
Bowie Police Department
The GM Tech Center Explorers Post brought home a 1st & 3rd place trophy from the 56th annual Autorama in March. The team placed 3rd in the very competitive ‘Radical Custom Convertible’ category with their 2007 Chevy Cobalt open air roadster nicknamed ‘Pure Adrenaline’, because of all of the excitement and attention the car generated. The roadster was the Post’s project for the 2007-2008 season. The metal flake ‘Inferno Orange’ custom paint was inspired by the new paint color slated for the new Camaro. The roadster was the Post’s project for the 2007-2008 season. UAW-GM Advisors from both the Design Center and the Build Shops worked together with the kids to cut the roof off the car, add ground effects, and create custom exterior and interior features, as well as stuff a twin-charge super turbo 400 horsepower 2 liter-4 cylinder engine under the hood. The GMTC Troop was also pleasantly surprised when last year’s project, the 2006 HHR ‘Beach Buggy’, took 1st place in the ‘Custom Compact Mini’ category. The Tech Center Post really got the adrenaline flowing this year. We at the PPO Times are anxious to see what will be on the horizon for next year for the Tech Center Explorers!

On Thursday, May 8, 2008, Ms. Monique Lawrence’s ‘Hospitality and Tourism’ class participated in the final Hospitality Explorer Post event of the 2007-2008 school year. Hosted by the Hilton Garden Inn, this Explorer Post meeting gave students a behind-the-scenes look at hotel and restaurant operations. Following in-depth departmental tours throughout the hotel, the students were treated to lunch in their beautiful café.

Special thanks are extended to Bryan Cornelius, Felton Clark, Chris Manor and the entire staff at Hilton Garden Inn for presenting this exciting Learning for Life activity. The Hospitality Explorer Post, which has allowed students to fully explore various career opportunities available in the hospitality and tourism industry, is co-sponsored by Savannah Technical College and Doubletree Hotel Historic Savannah.

Explorer post sponsors provide monthly career exploring events that include tours, job shadowing, interactive demonstrations, hands-on activities, job skills practice, post secondary program information and small group discussions on ethical or topical issues in the industry. Student Explorer Post applications for next school year are now available at high school guidance offices. For more information on Exploring, call Barbara Foley, Learning for Life Program Director at 912-308-7892.
SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE HOSTS CAREER EXPO & LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

On Thursday, April 24th and Tuesday, April 29th, “From Block 8 to 8 to 5,” the Savannah Chatham Public School System’s Career Expo and Leadership Workshops for high school students, hosted by S.C. Johnson High School, were held at Savannah Technical College. Each day, over twenty five local businesses and post secondary institutions were on hand to talk to students about career preparation and job opportunities. In addition, there were a total of forty-eight workshops that gave students instruction on such topics as “Resumes and Electronic Portfolios”, “Do’s and Don’ts of the Business World” and “What to Expect in an Interview.”

The opening programs for students included words of encouragement from Dr. Joe Buck—School Board President, Derrick Muhammad--Director of Career, Technical & Agricultural Education for Savannah Chatham Public School System, and Van Johnson—1st District Alderman. Motivational speaker and Ambassador for the Georgia Adult Literacy Program, Sharon Lindsey Howard set the tone for a great program with an inspirational speech about the critical importance of staying in school.

In conjunction with the Career Expo and Leadership Workshops, a Workforce Development Breakfast was held for participating business and educational representatives. Co-sponsored by Savannah Technical College, the Savannah Chatham Public School System and Learning for Life, the Workforce Development Breakfast introduced over sixty business leaders each day to new programs available to high school students at Woodville Tompkins Technical & Career Institute. Dr. Reginald Hendricks, Executive Vice President of Savannah Technical College, and Ashley Samuels, Workforce Development Program Manager at Gulfstream, encouraged business leaders to consider the development of new school/business partnerships.

Special thanks are extended to John LeCounte, Enrollment and Retention Specialist for Savannah Technical College for his assistance in organizing this excellent event. Special thanks are also given to the following organizers from the Savannah-Chatham Public School System: Karen Pflugh—Career Technical Supervisor for Savannah Chatham Public School System and Dr. Delores Cummings, Bettina Tate, Sharon Stallings and Rhonda Barlow, teachers at Johnson High School. Senator Regina Thomas and Ms. Ola Lewis, Johnson High School Advisory Board members, also assisted in planning and organizing the Career Expo and Leadership Workshops.

LEARNING FOR LIFE SALUTES EGYPT STRICKLAND

Learning for Life salutes Egypt Strickland, Operations Assistant for Clear Channel Radio Savannah, for her active role in volunteering in the local public high schools this year. Egypt serves on advisory boards at S.C. Johnson High School, Windsor Forest High School and R.W. Groves High School. This spring, she presented three excellent Career Seminars on "Media Integration and Internet Marketing Strategies", two at Windsor Forest High School and one at Groves High School. In addition, she was involved in the Savannah Chatham Public School System's Career Expo & Leadership Workshops with a career opportunity booth on April 24th and 29th at Savannah Technical College.

More than 600 local public high school students attended the 2008 Career Expo. The following week, Egypt’s Promotion Event Assistant, Jasmine Mahomes, participated in Windsor Forest High School’s Job Fair.

Special thanks are extended to Clear Channel Radio Savannah’s Egypt Strickland and Jasmine Mahomes, for their continued support of these local school/business partnership initiatives, which will assist both Windsor Forest High School and R.W Groves High School as they pursue Industry Certification this year.

For more information about Learning for Life and Exploring and how you can have a positive impact on the development of our local workforce, please contact Barbara Foley, Learning for Life Program Director at 912-308-7892 or byfoley@darientel.net. To learn more about promotional opportunities at Clear Channel Radio Savannah, contact Egypt Strickland at 912-964-7794 or egyptstrickland@clearchannel.com.
Explorer Program Explores Veterinary Careers

Some hoped to gain field experience. Some were trying to decide if it’s really what they want to do. One has wanted to do this since a baby bird fell out of a nest near her home when she was little girl. All of them love animals. No matter the reason behind it, all members of the Learning for Life Veterinary Explorers Post are glad they decided to join.

Administered through the Learning for Life Council of the Greater Niagara Frontier, the Veterinary Exploring program began about 15 years ago to help students interested in veterinary sciences gain insight into their dream jobs. The program allows high school students to experience veterinary and related careers, from canine training to zoo medicine, and to meet professionals in the field.

“I’ve always been interested in animals. I’ve always wanted to be a vet and somehow get into vet medicine. They’ve been giving us a lot of background information of what’s involved in being a vet. We learn what they do and the background of their jobs. It’s really cool,” said Lake Shore senior Laura Garezo, 17.

The program is open to students ages 14 through 21 interested in careers with animals. This year’s group drew 52 students from across Western New York. Costing only $12, the program ran from Jan. 9 to May 21. Veterinary explorers met at Medaille College every first and third Wednesday of the month, in the evening.

The group participated in lectures and demonstrations on academic preparation for veterinary and veterinary technology school, veterinary anesthesiology, feline and canine care, euthanasia, animal first aid, exotic animal training and wildlife rehabilitation. Presentations were given by local veterinarians and animal care-givers, giving students one-on-one time with the animals.

When not meeting at Medaille, students ventured out on many field trips to the Sheridan Animal Hospital, where they saw surgery and ultrasound demonstrations, the University at Buffalo’s animal research facility and the Canine Academy in Clarence, where students were shown obedience and police dog training demonstrations.

In April, explorers attended an open house at Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine, the only veterinary school in New York.

“So far the trip to Cornell has helped the most because if made us realize all the job opportunities out there,” said Buffalo Seminary junior Brittany Williams, 16. The program has since helped her decide to pursue a career with large farm animals.

A highlight of the program occurred April 16 when students were given a behind-the-scenes, after-hours tour of the Buffalo Zoo by zoo director Dr. Donna Fernandes and zoo veterinarian Dr. Kurt Volle.

“I’m a huge fan of the zoo, so I’ll just learn anything they have to teach me,” said Brittany, before the tour.

Fernandes and Volle first gave a presentation on the day-to-day operations of the zoo and an overview of their jobs. The students were then guided around the zoo by Fernandes. They saw the holding area of some of the zoo’s newest inhabitants waiting for completion of the new Rainforest Building. They found themselves surrounded by lions and tigers inside the wild cat holding area. Just a few steps in the wrong direction would land any explorer face to face with a protective mother lion or the young lion cubs, Thyme and Warner.

In early May, explorers traveled to a horse facility where they received scrub tops with the program’s logo.

“It was important to get the uniforms as it has brought the students together as a group,” said Dr. Rene van Ee, program director. “Most did not know each other, but they have come together nicely as a group and maybe will develop some long-term friendships.”

“Veterinary medicine tends to be very romantic. Everybody says, ‘I want to work with animals. I love animals.’ But it’s like any profession, until you go and see the reality of it, you don’t really know,” said Van Ee, “So, a lot of these kids; hopefully they get to see all that it’s about.”